

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183484 TOSEC 190106

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FOL RPT PEKING 1369 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CANBERRA JUL 23

QUOTE : C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1369

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E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB, CH, US

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA RELATIONS AND FRASER'S WASHINGTON VISIT

ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT' GUIDANCE ASAP, WHICH WE
CAN SHARE WITH AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY, ON USG ATTITUDE TOWARD
ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NEXT MONTH BETWEEN
AUSTRALIA AND CAMBODIA.

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY JULY 22 ADVISED US IN CONFIDENCE THAT
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BETWEEN AUSTRALIA
AND CAMBODIA ("DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA") WILL BE ESTABLISHED
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AND ANNOUNCED ON AUGUST 6 OF GOA AGREES TO A CAMBODIAN PROPOSAL

MADE HERE JULY 20. EMBASSY DOUBTS GOA WILL HAVE REACHED DECISION BEFORE PRI MIN FRASER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND IS CONSIDERING RECOMMENDATION ON WHETHER FRASER SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT RAISE THIS MATTER DURING HIS VISIT. IN THAT CONNECTION, EMBASSY ASKED INFORMALLY WHAT KIND OF REACTION WE THOUGHT FRASER WOULD GET IF HE WERE TO RAISE IT.

2. USLO POLCOUNS, TO WHOM ABOVE QUESTION WAS PUT, STATED PERSONAL ASSUMPTION THAT USG WAS TAKING A NEUTRAL STANCE TOWARD WHAT OTHER GOVERNMENTS DECIDED ABOUT THEIR RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA. BUT HE PROMISED TO TRY TO GIVE THE EMBASSY BY MONDAY, JULY 26, SOME PROJECTION OF HOW US WOULD BE LIKELY TO REACT -- I.E. FAVORABLY, UNFAVORABLY OR HOWEVER.

3. EMBASSY PROVIDED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND:

-- UNDER WHITLAM GOVERNMENT THERE HAD BEEN AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVES IN PEKING TO LEARN CAMBODIAN VIEWS ON ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. THE CAMBODIANS HAD BEEN UNRESPONSIVE.

--SOON AFTER FRASER GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE, EMBASSY WAS AUTHORIZED TO REMIND CAMBODIANS THAT THEY HAD NOT REPLIED TO AUSTRALIAN INQUIRIES. CAMBODIANS REMAINED UNRESPONSIVE.

--BEFORE FRASER'S VISIT TO PEKING, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FITZGERALD MENTIONED TO PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO THAT PRI MIN WOULD PROBABLY BE INTERESTED IN CHINA'S VIEWS ON CAMBODIA AND ON AUSTRALIAN-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS.

--IN COURSE OF THE FRASER VISIT CHIAO, IN TURN, DURING COUNTER-PART TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK, INACCURATELY QUOTED FITZGERALD TO THE EFFECT THAT AUSTRALIA WANTED TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA.

--THERE WERE NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS UNTIL JULY 20, WHEN CAMBODIAN CHARGE CAME TO AUSTRALIANS WITH A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL STARTING FROM AUGUST 6, ON BASIS OF FIVE PRINCIPLES (SPELLED OUT) OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. THERE WAS SOME TENTATIVE DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS AS DUAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCREDITATION, PRESUMABLY OF AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN PEKING.

4. NOTE: NEITHER AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY NOR USLO AWARE OF WHAT CONTACTS , IF ANY, MAY HAVE ALREADY TAKEN PLACE ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND EITHER WHITLAM OR FRASER GOVERNMENT. AT ANY RATE INFORMAL AUSTRALIAN APPROACH HERE SHOULD BE CLOSELY

HELD WITHIN USC.
GATES

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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